

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - HELD AT EXETER TOWN HALL

23 February 2016 7:30 PM

Present: Mike Cardinal, Dale Ann McKichan, Mat Shetler, Duane Inkpen, Wade Beaudoin, Ryan Bayne, Bill Dineen, Jim Bayne.

Guests: Lorraine Norminton MNR, Scott Austin, Diane Schwier, Jeff Howsden,

Presentation from the Ruffed Grouse Society, Jeff Howsden (Chairman):

Jeff Howsden, of the Tillsonburg chapter was accompanied by two other members, Dave and Wayne. A slide show was put on a screen and he spoke of their concern with habitat and work with other groups on this. They sponsor banquets, to bring like people together with this common interest. They are a Registered Canadian Charity. The question: What has happened to cause the decline of our grouse population? In about 1998 a symposium was held in London and talked about what's happened to the populations. Predation is a possible cause due to opossums, raccoons and avian predators as their numbers are up. We don't know for sure. The question comes to us that in other places in the USA just south and west of us, their populations are good in spite of the same predators. So, we believe it's mostly habitat causes, but can't be sure. The Rough Grouse Society depends on donations and are looking for a partnership of sorts to share in raffles, etc. There are woodlot associations in Southern Ontario that are key to improving habitat. They provide expertise from their RGS biologist for existing and future work on habitat. They've had good information about Grouse flush numbers during the controlled deer hunt. West Nile impacted some bird species but we don't know if it affected Grouse. What is involved for our area - create a committee. A few people are interested locally. What are they asking of us? The BOD does not act as a fund raising committee for any organization or specific user group, as the BOD primary role is to execute the operations agreement. Fundraising activities undertaken by the BOD are in support of the property as a whole in line with operation agreement priorities.

There is only so much money that people donate, so we need to be careful to not sacrifice donated money to another organization. People interested could be sent to RGS rather than us manage a committee. We can offer doing things within our mandate to aid the RGS to improve our habitat.

Meeting called to order by Duane 8:18

Diane Schwier was introduced by Lorraine and is taking over for Lorraine for a period of time. Diane will be the Aggregate Officer. Lorraine will still be in the Guelph office as well. Each director was introduced to Diane.

January minutes reviewed. Adjustments to meeting minutes will be made and forwarded to all directors and OMNR staff before the March, 2016 mtg.

Treasurers Report - A list of directors was filled out for the Canada Revenue Agency. This was filled out by all.

See financial review. Each item was explained by Mat.

Discussion on the Prairie Grass fields and how they are harvested, manured, etc.

Marsh Report -

1. An amount of money will come to us for hiring two students for 7 weeks or one student for two 7 week hirings. It would be a transfer payment to us from the MNR. Most of the staff we may hire will come in on the MNR health and safety training with the MNR.

Scott wants these people to focus on A Zone work; Trails, duck markers, etc.

Job Posting for the 8 month position has been posted at SSFC, U of Guelph and the Canada Job Bank. Wade and Bill Volunteered to help with the interviewing of applicants.

2. Woodstove to be installed 1st of March.

3. CSJ funding. The Feds are offering an additional 34,000 jobs so we may be able to up temp positions to 2 instead of the usual 1. Scott putting out feelers to find good candidates. Are 15 year olds allowed to use the off road equipment? Scott to look into this.

4. DUC - Lorraine said maybe a different process for the operational meeting. Lorraine's suggestion is the MNRF interact with FOH or the directors about what we want the next year. Then Lorraine would take it back to the MNRF to see how this works with their goals and objectives. Then MNRF would sit down with DUC for an annual work plan. They have less budget money now. Discussion to follow with plans on how to implement this. Then we can get together at an operational meeting. Put dollar amounts to the things we want to get done. Decide where the money comes from for each project - ag, funds, etc. To be more strategic in how decisions are being made. Prepare for the operational meeting before we go to the meeting. How it would work: Lorraine sits down with the BOD first and then she will go to DUC. She will make sure obligations are being looked after. Lorraine is being the mediator between the two groups. The other part is that some of these things can be presented at the AGM to speak on what we have done and what we intend to do. Duane suggests that we need to have a meeting with the water fowlers group and see what they need done. For B Zone - Duane and Scott to decide what is needed there. Wade will decide what needs done in A Zone. Then, Lorraine wants to send out a list to DUC of things we want done...whether it is done this year or another.

5. HPWA is a potential host for an Archery Event. This would be a great event but there could be some difficulties. There will be large numbers of people and will have to be on some of our trails. As we are a public organization and this may interfere with some of our regular trails. This could be a problem as these arrows can be dangerous to hikers. It's a safety concern. They would have to come with a plan for safety and logistics for us to review and recommend concerns. It could be good for us and the community. Let's send an email to know how much space they will need and how they will manage safety. Question: should we close one section of the trail system for this event? Yes, we can do this. Parking may be an issue.

6. Scott says he has a guy for \$565 to trim our 2 walnut trees. Motion by Dale Ann, seconded by R. Bayne. \$600. All in favour.

7. 2016 Budget - Mat advises that with the potential for 5 - 6 employees this summer that there

will be more expenses associated with this.

8. Large Tree Down in the centre of Dog Park. Scott suggests leaving this big soft maple tree where it lays, and we may burn it at a later time.

9. Aquarium - Scott to talk to Steve Wilpstra to see when he will return to retrieve the last one.

10. Large DUC signs.....Some of the frame work done.

11. New 4'X8' FOH Sign for Office Complex - Jeff Krete informs that DUC head office will do the art work free of charge. New sign will be \$500. Discussion to spend a little more for new lumber and hardware and the advantages to doing it right. We should budget \$800 for new materials. Motion by Mike C second by Dale Ann. Passed.

16. Delta Waterfowl - Discussion on Chip Pitfield proposal to see if HPWA would be a good fit for their support. He will get back to us with a proposal. We'll see what he proposes for further discussion.

17. 1st May charity Dinner/Auction. Do we want to make a purchase for an auction item. Hunter's Haven offering a .410 shotgun that we could sell ticket for. Should we spend \$600 for a good gun for auction (major prize). Wade made a motion to go ahead with the gun as the major prize. All in favour. Another prize could be a guided Duck Hunt in White Tail Swamp.

New Business

Lorraine made reference to 2015 grassland planting. We have been approached by Ducks Unlimited to provide property for compensation for an Overall Benefit for Species at Risk, particularly Bobolink. In the past we (MNR) have signed a 21 year agreement with Burks Falls Solar Company. The board discussed and would like to take caution before entering any agreements as DUC is getting money for negotiating these contracts. The MNR and FOH should be part of the compensation for providing the property needed. Monies earned for things within our property should benefit the FOH rather than outside interests.

AGM - Should we appoint a stand in director? Danica Rush nominated by Bill for filling a position Board until the AGM. No objections to this. She will be notified by Bill.

Snow blowing discussion regarding doing more parking lots that Scott does not have time for. Anyone on the board can volunteer to do this though it will not be posted as regularly blown. Bill said he would volunteer to do this as his time permits.

Meeting adjourned, 10:20 Next mtg...Tuesday 29 March